

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

SAM-01 SSM-05 ACDA-10 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /101 W

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R 111003Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9516

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

WASHDC 1032

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6083

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 11 SYRIAN MEDIA REVIEW

1. SEPT. 11 AL-THAWRAH HEADLINED: "DAMASCUS MEETINGS STRENGTHEN HOPE FOR SOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS. PRES. ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE DELEGATION INCLUDING SOLH, WAZZAN, SALAM AND BERBIR. CHATTI AND KHOLI ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS AND MEET WITH KHADDAM."

2. PRESS REPORTED PRES. ASAD RECEIVED SOLH, WAZZAN AND ISLAMIC GROUPING DELEGATION EVENING SEPT. 10 AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM NECESSITY FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO SAVE LEBANON FROM CRISIS.

3. ACCORDING TO SANA, TUNISIAN FORMIN CHATTI AND AL REP KHOLI ARRIVED FROM CAIRO AND SPENT EVENING SEPT. 10 MEETING
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WITH FONMIN KHADDAM. IN AIRPORT STATEMENT CHATTI TOLD SANA THAT

AIM OF HIS VISIT WAS TO LEARN ABOUT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON. SANA DESPATCH ALSO STATED THAT DESPITE FIGHTING IN SOME PARTS OF LEBANON, ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM PREVAILS IN POLITICAL CIRCLES IN BEIRUT RE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING SOLUTION TO SAFEGUARD LEBANON'S UNITY AND ASSURE TO PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE (POSSIBILITY OF) PROCEEDING WITH ITS BASIC MISSION, WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF SYRIAN INITIATIVE. CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES TO CONFLICT ARE CONTINUING TO REACH THIS AGREEMENT BEFORE ASSUMPTION BY SARKIS OF HIS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES.

4. PRESS CONTAINED NO EDITORIALS ON LEBANON BUT ARTICLE IN AL-THAWRAH WARNED ARABS THAT US HAD NOT ABANDONED STEP BY STEP POLICY WHICH HAD DIVIDED ARABS AND LED TO LEBANESE CRISIS. WRITER SAW PRESENT US AIMS AS (A) GIVING ARABS IMPRESSION THAT US HAS ABANDONED STEP BY STEP; (B) INCITING LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF INTER-ARAB CONTRADICTIONS AND DISPUTES; AND (C) FALSIFYING FACTS TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT BECAUSE OF LEBANESE EVENTS STEP BY STEP HAS BEEN HALTED EVEN THOUGH THESE EVENTS CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM US POLICY.

5. SEPT. 11 DAMASCUS MORNING NEWS REPORTED VISIT OF "WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN ZIONIST" DAVIS ROCKEFELLER TO CAIRO FOR TALKS WITH SADAT ON SETTING UP JOINT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI COMPANIES. MURPHY

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